Assembly Stimulus, Economic Recovery, and Jobs (SERJ) Task Force

Structure and Activities of the SERJ Task Force

In February of 2009, Speaker Karen Bass called on Assemblyman V. Manuel Pérez to lead a new task force on the state's economic recovery and long-term growth. This Fact Sheet provides additional information on the SERJ Task Force.

Purpose: The SERJ Task Force is charged with developing a 24-month set of actions on how best to leverage federal funding to address the state's immediate economic and workforce development needs. And, through the prudent and judicious application of these federal dollars, have them serve as a catalyst for building a strong foundation for the state's future economic growth – particularly in the area of the emerging green economy.

It is envisioned that the SERJ Task Force will facilitate the ability of the Assembly to work cooperatively toward a renewed vision for the California economy.

Structure: The SERJ Task Force is comprised of the chairs and committee members of key policy committees engaged in economic, business, and workforce development-related issues. The Chair of the Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economic Development, and Economy (JEDE) shall serve as the convener of the SERJ Task Force and shall coordinate the development of its activities, including the final 24-month blueprint of actions. An initial draft of the blueprint is currently available at www.assembly.ca.gov on the JEDE Committee website.

In undertaking its duties the SERJ Task Force will seek to engage a broad range of key stakeholders through legislative hearings, community roundtables, and the Internet.

Membership: The members of the SERJ Task Force include:

Assemblymember V. Manuel Pérez
Assemblymember Juan Arambula
Assemblymember Bob Blumenfield
Assemblymember Julia Brownley
Assemblymember Anna Caballero
Assemblymember Wilmer Amina Cartrer
Assemblymember Felipe Fuentes
Assemblymember Warren Furutani
Assemblymember Jerry Hill
Assemblymember Alyson Huber
Assemblymember William Monning
Assemblymember Anthony Portantino
Assemblymember Curren Price
Assemblymember Ira Ruskin
Assemblymember Nancy Skinner
Assemblymember Sandré Swanson

Top Priorities: The top priorities for the SERJ Task Force are to help facilitate the two-way exchange of information on economic and workforce development programs and services between the federal and state government and local communities, workers, and businesses.

TRANSFORMING OUR ECONOMY WITH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

"We need to put scientists to work looking for the next great discovery, create jobs in cutting-edge technologies and making smart investments that will help businesses in every community succeed in a global economy. " American Recovery and Reinvestment Act February 2009

Broadband to Give Every Community Access to the Global Economy

- **Wireless and Broadband Grants:** $7.2 billion for broadband and wireless services in underserved areas to strengthen the economy and provide business and job opportunities in every section of America with benefits to e-commerce, education, and healthcare. For every dollar invested in broadband the economy sees a ten-fold return on that investment.

Scientific Research

- **National Science Foundation:** $3 billion, including $2 billion for expanding employment opportunities in fundamental science and engineering to meet environmental challenges and to improve global economic competitiveness, $400 million to build major research facilities that perform cutting edge science, $300 million for major research equipment shared by institutions of higher education and other scientists, $200 million to repair and modernize science and engineering research facilities at the nation's institutions of higher education and other science labs, and $100 million to improve instruction in science, math and engineering.
- **National Institutes of Health Biomedical Research:** $8.7 billion for expanding good jobs in biomedical research to study diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, cancer, and heart disease - NIH is currently able to fund less than 20% of approved applications.
- **University Research Facilities:** $1.3 billion for NIH to renovate and equip university research facilities and help them compete for biomedical research grants. The National Science Foundation estimates a maintenance backlog of $3.9 billion in biological science research space. Funds are awarded competitively.
- **Department of Energy:** $2 billion for basic research into the physical sciences including high-energy physics, nuclear physics, and fusion energy sciences and improvements to DOE laboratories and scientific facilities. $400 million is for the Advanced Research Project Agency – Energy to support high-risk, high-payoff research into energy sources and energy efficiency.
- **NASA:** $1 billion, including $400 million to put more scientists to work doing climate change research, including Earth science research recommended by the National Academies; $400 million to further exploration activities; $150 million for research, development, and demonstration to improve aviation safety and Next Generation air traffic control (NextGen); and $50 million to repair NASA centers damaged by hurricanes and floods last year.
- **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration:** $600 million for construction and repair of facilities, ships and equipment, to improve weather forecasting, support satellite development and address critical gaps in climate modeling.
- **National Institute of Standards and Technology:** $360 million for renovation and construction of new facilities and laboratories, including $180 million for competitive construction grants for research science buildings at colleges, universities, and other research organizations; and $220 million for additional research fellowships, equipment, and competitive grants.
- **NOAA Operations, Research and Facilities:** $230 million to address a backlog of ready-to-go research, restoration, navigation, and conservation activities.
- **U.S. Geological Survey:** $140 million to repair and modernize USGS science facilities and equipment, including improvements to laboratories, earthquake monitoring systems, and computing capacity.